in Schedule-I of the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972. In addition, Government has also issued notifications dated 28.05.2001 and 5.12.2001 including 10 species of elasmobranchs (sharks and rays) in Schedule-I of the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972. Hunting of species included in Schedule-I and trade in their parts and products is prohibited. However, killing of whales and sharks for meat, fins and other products can not be ruled out. Recently a case of poaching of one whale shark was registered against six persons in Kutch district of Gujarat.

Funds for cleaning the rivers

1378. DR. C. NARAYANA REDDY: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a request from the States for funding the programme of cleaning the rivers;

(b) whether Government propose to accept their request; and

(c) if so, what is the proposed allotment of funds, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI DILIP SINGH JUDEV): (a) to (c) The Government is already providing assistance to various State Governments to cover pollution abatement works in 157 towns along polluted stretches of 31 rivers spread over 18 States under a Centrally Sponsored Scheme of National River Conservation Plan (NRCP). The State-wise allotment of funds for implementation of works under NRCP is given below:

Statement

(Rs. in crore)

S. No.	State	Approved cost
1.	A.P.	395.11
2.	Bihar	32.42
3.	Delhi	186.56

S. No.	State	Approved cost
4.	Goa	14.10
5.	Gujarat	93.83
6.	Haryana	248.56
7.	Jharkhand	41.34
8.	Karnataka	72.00
9.	Kerala	18.45
10.	Maharashtra	123.17
11.	M.P.	101.19
12.	Orissa	72.27
13.	Punjab	234.58
14.	Rajasthan	13.21
15.	Tamilnadu	1103.10
16.	U.P.	800.30
17.	Uttranchal	38.49
18.	W.B.	394.65
	TOTAL	3983.34

Felling of trees in Metro Cities

1379. SHRI CHO. S. RAMASWAMY: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that large number of trees are being cut in various metros of the country without the valid permission of the concerned authorities;

(b) if so, how many such cases have been reported from various metros of the country;

(c) what steps are being taken to prevent felling of trees to protect the environmental degradation of the cities; and

(d) whether Government propose to bring out stricter laws to prevent this act; and if so, the details thereof?